

OHIO LESBIAN FESTIVAL

We have endeavored to try a new festival as often as possible, so along with four friends, we attended the 9th Annual Ohio Lesbian Festival held east of Columbus, Ohio. Over 3,000 women attended this one day out-door festival. You take lawn chairs, blankets, drinks and picnic baskets, and set up camp as close to the stage as you can. Once you've staked your property, you are free to visit the many craft exhibits (they had over 70), or attend one of the workshops; there were 5 or 6 every hour from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. During the workshops, there was always something going on at the main stage, which is the only covered area.

The exciting thing about going to any Festival, is taking along Festy Virgins, and we had two. They provided a whole new insight, and the numerous festy goers that felt the need to express themselves topless, provided plenty of entertainment and made the Emcee feel the need to sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

This Festival was highlighted by seeing a lot of good friends from Southern Indiana, not to mention some excellent performers. We had wanted to go expressly to see Suzanne Westenhofer (a wonderfully funny lesbian comedienne who did about 90% different material than she did in Bloomington) and Chris Williamson and Tret Fure. While we had also seen them in Bloomington, knowing their music after buying the CD and playing it over and over, really made a difference and provided a whole new level of appreciation.

I think we all made it to at least one workshop of interest and learned new things to share with each other, which is another reason to go to Festivals. If you like the outdoors, and don't want to spend more than one day at a Festival, this one is ideal.

K and M

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER, famous out Lesbian comedienne will be performing in Chicago at The Vic on October 11, (312-559-1212) and in Grand Rapids, MI. at the Ladies Literary Club (616-459-8877) on October 25. She will also be in Ann Arbor, MI on November 21, at The Ark (313-763-8587). If you have not seen this talented performer, put her on your must see list!! You won't be sorry. She also has a new CD out called "Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes" and a video of her HBO Special. These can be purchased at the concerts or by calling 800-631-6277 and ordering them. They are both excellent additions to your libraries, but I would recommend spending the Shipping & Handling charges on gas and going to see her.....M

OPEN ARMS IS PUBLISHED AND RUN BY A VOLUNTEER STAFF. WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL WIMMIN TO HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO DEVOTE ONCE A MONTH, PLEASE CONTACT US BY PHONE OR E-MAIL.

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OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for the November newsletter is Oct. 15th. Submissions received after Oct. 15th may not be published in the November newsletter. Mail submissions to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN or give to any staff member. There will be a newsletter meeting Oct 12, 6:30 p.m. For more information call or e-mail any staff member.....

E-mail address mdills@juno.com

E-mail address suze3@juno.com

Kaye & Marcia..... 219-271-0338

Suze..... 219-254-8676 (beeper)

community events

"SINGLED OUT" singles group

Our Weko Beach "outing" was so much fun, we went again last week!!! Although these activities are being planned with single womyn in mind, no one is excluded and everyone is welcome.....Any questions??? call Janine at 219-259-5111 or Debbie at 616-687-9535

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, October 4, Womyn's weekend in Saugatuck. We will meet at 12 noon at Southside Christian Church to car-pool or caravan. Spend the day with others sightseeing, brousing, and shopping in Saugatuck. Then enjoy dinner & dancing at the Sir Douglas Dunes (this part is optional. Some of us will head back in the early evening).

Saturday, November 15.... A Potluck/Game/Video night, to be held at Southside Christian Church, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, your own beverage and be ready to have fun.

Sunday, December 14, Bowling at Chippewa Lanes 3:00pm (more on this event next month)

We are very grateful for the use of the Southside Church building and the use of the parking lot as a place to meet and park cars when we go out of town. The activities, however, are not affiliated with the church. This building is a safe place for us to meet and accomodates our needs as far as space and facilities. THANK YOU, SOUTHSIDE AND MARTHA for offering this space to the lesbian community.

OCTOBER 10, instead of 3rd Friday Out, there will be a Hay Ride from 8 to 10 p.m. at Bendix Woods. Cost is \$5.00 per person and will include snacks. This event is for couples & singles.... reservations requested by October 3rd or for more info call Lori/Sherrill (616-684-6913)

Jamie Anderson concerts near here

October 11, in Kalamazoo at W. Michigan Univ.

October 17, in Lansing at the Real World Emporium

OCTOBER 11,

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

API Theater in Kalamazoo presents "A Masquerade of Rhymes" for more info616-343-8090

Justice, Inc. (Indiana's statewide civil rights organization on gay, lesbian and HIV issues) will sponsor a National Coming Out Day Reception on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Diversity Center, 1112 Southwestern Avenue, in Indy. The guest speaker at this event will be Rhea Murray, Pres. of the Seymour, IN P-FLAG. All are welcome to attend. For info.....317-634-9212 or e-mail justiceINC@aol.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1st Annual Northeast Indiana AIDS walk will be held in Fort Wayne. The event will be sponsored by the Lincoln National Foundation with proceeds benefitting the AIDS Task Force, Inc. of Northeast Indiana and Indiana Cares.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1:00 p.m., Viv's Creativity Salon...417 Michigan St. Berrien Springs, MI. This salon promotes wimmin sharing self-expressions and creative energy with other wimmin. Future dates will follow. For more information, Viv at 616-473-6150 or Lisa at 219-299-9241

October 25, 7:30p.m.....Mountain Moving Coffeehouse presents the Artemis Singers/ Bread & Roses Chorus to celebrate the Holloween season. Music for and by women varying from ancient chants to Sweet Honey in the Rock to the Roaches!

NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 3, 7:00p.m... vs. St. John's
Oct. 5, 2:00p.m.. vs. Connecticut
Oct. 7, 7:00p.m.. vs. Illinois State
Oct. 17, 8:00p.m.. vs. N. Carolina
Nov. 7, 7:00p.m... vs. W. Virginia
Nov. 9, 2:00p.m.... vs. Pittsburgh

NOTRE DAME SOCCER

Oct 5, 1:00pm vs Boston Col.
Oct. 24, 7:30pm vs Seton Hall
Oct. 26, 1:00pm vs Connecticut
Oct. 31, 7:30pm vs Michigan
Nov. 2, 3:00pm vs Providence

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY 7-9 P.M. FOR INFO: WRITE TO
LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

Lesbian Growth & Support Group meets Monday nights 7-8:30 pm at the Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 303 E. Washington, Fort Wayne. The group is open to all lesbians and any women in the process of discovering or questioning their sexual identity. Newcomers are very welcome

For More Information.....219-424-7977

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Meetings are from 2 to 4 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cleveland Road, South Bend. Info...Nancy Mascotte 219-277-2684 or write P.O. Box 4195, South Bend, 46634-4195

Switchboard Concern of Elkhart needs names and phone numbers of women as contacts for them to call when they have a caller who would like to talk to a gay female. The contacts' names and phone #'s are never given out to callers, but rather the contact is called and given the name and phone number of the caller. If you are interested in helping, please call Pat Barber at 219-294-3549

YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR FIRST

Gay Pride March, that is.

I didn't march that first year. I still accepted that I had to lie to my family, my co-workers and just about everyone else in my life in order to be gay.

Then there was a women's dance held in the basement of some sympathetic church. Lesbians met every week to talk, not drink. At a party some exhilarated gay man described a fabulous march in the city with more gay people than he could have imagined. Mainstream newspapers reported crowds of hundreds, thousands.

There was something in the air beckoning, challenging, daring us to all to come out for a few hours, one day a year. We were too young or too oppressed to know that the taste of freedom was more addictive than any substance we'd ever used to dull the pain of living condemned and in hiding.

My first March was big. We filled the streets as far back and ahead as I could see. You're not really aware you're making history while in the midst of it, but that day I knew, I think we all knew.

Before, we'd walked those same streets only at night, always frightened, whispering, hypervigilant and timidly defiant. At my first March the sun shone. We sang, "*Here come the les-bees!*" Didn't we bellow, didn't we strut and sashay.

Oh, the bulldykes and the guys in cowboy hats, the bedazzling, bedecked femmes of all genders! The long-haired boys, the short-haired girls, the costumed and the barely-dressed. The chants that blew the roof off the city, the visions that were born and grew. The laughing cops who couldn't guess that we'd be walking beats beside them. That day we were, unknowing, carrying not only banners and posters, but America's future. While we thought we were having fun, we were creating a revolution.

Drag queens blazed in their finery, moving sparks of angry, exultant life. They sang their own songs, the cheerleaders of our parade. I remember feeling torn: we'd be damned for their stereotypical antics, but they were at the very heart of queerness. I wanted the drag queens to go away and I wanted to be a drag queen. Next year I'd wear a tie.

Next year. Once part of our great upheaval I had no doubt that there would be a next year. I looked around that day and saw, by sheer numbers alone, that we were unvanquishable.

When the ticker tape began to float down from windows full of cheering, people, we were war heroes, space pioneers, presidents and Olympic champions. We were the toast of the town. No one who has been so celebrated can ever go back into hiding.

A woman I knew rushed out of the crowd. She told me, told the world, "I'm GAY!" All over the streets the silent sister -- and brotherhoods were shouting in welcome and appreciation of one another.

We were thirsty and too excited to wait in line for sodas. We were tired, and too buoyant to rest our blistered feet. We were hot and too euphoric to seek shelter.

Shelter found us as we reached the city park. We showered ourselves with water fountain spray and flung ourselves onto the cooling grass. As the speakers praised our numbers a prowling straight woman tried to pick me up, eager to come out, to be a part of us.

Like the drag queens, the religious queers, the butches with beer bottles and the women and men who stepped off the sidewalks to swell our power, we marched because everyone deserves a pride day, week, month -- a life of pride. You always remember your first.

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COURT OF FRIENDS

Okay, all you singles! Looking for that special someone? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another. Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit/or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to:

The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546
You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue (depending upon when we receive your information). Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in pencil on the front of the envelope. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#69 Hi! I'm a SWF, 45 years young, caring and affectionate, with unlimited interests; to name a few, dancing, music (all kinds), golf, weekend trips, and walks on the beach. Looking for someone to share fun times out with, or just a night cuddling to good music, movie and a good bottle of wine! Someone to make memories with. Honesty a must.

#70 I'm a romantic and I want to believe in forever. Hi! SWGF, mid-thirties, long hair. I enjoy things that make my heart feel good, like bringing flowers, candle-lit dinners, long conversations, and especially laughing. Tuff on the outside, soft-hearted inside. I am seeking someone who is intelligent, honest, sensitive, with a sense of humor and a little dry-wit on the side. If you believe in the possibilities of forever and growing old together, I'd love to hear from you. Age is unimportant.



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HEALTH BEAT

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION UPDATE

Campaign 2.6

The National Breast Cancer Coalition is collecting 2.6 million signatures, representing the 2.6 million women living with breast cancer in the U.S. today, demanding 2.6 million dollars for breast cancer research by the year 2000. You can sign their petition electronically: just go to their new Website (<http://www.natlbcc.org>), click on Political Campaign, and fill out their brief form, or you can call the campaign hotline at 1-800-NBCC.838 This doesn't enroll you as a member or subscriber, you're simply telling the President and Congress that you want more money for research - innovative research, not just improved mammography or breast self-exam techniques.

.....from Lesbian Health News



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OUR READERS WRITE

Feedback: The part I like least is you don't print a softball schedule.....

Dear Reader: If you are talking about the Whistle Stop schedule, we don't like it either. This is the way the South Bend Parks decided to schedule: two weeks at a time, and we don't have that information in time to print it in the newsletter. Write to the S.B. Parks and complain. It is possible that with the new softball complex, this will improve in the near future. P.S. we try to print local sports schedules as they become available. If you are a sports fan and have a schedule that you would like to share with others, please mail it to us and we will print it in the newsletter.



IN THE NEWS



from the USA TODAY.....

OUT AND ABOUT: Ellen DeGeneres came into her own by coming out. Having lived up to the hype with the "I'm gay" episode that deservedly won a writing Emmy, *ELLEN*, (Wednesday's on ABC), lived up to its promise with a smartly written season premiere that finds fertile comedy in sexual confusion.

"I don't have a type. It took me this long to narrow it down to a gender," Ellen tells a former boyfriend, a renewed friendship that has her re-examining her sexuality.

When they impulsively kiss, her cousin Spence says, "What the hell kind of lesbian are you?"

An awkward one. An endearing one. A real, complicated and often quite funny one.

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from the South Bend Tribune.....

Michigan State University in Lansing, MI, last month extended health and other benefits to live-in gay partners of the University's employees. These benefits are similar to those offered by the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Under the plan, gay partners would be eligible for health and other benefits that now go to married partners. To receive the benefits, same sex couples would have to sign a partnership agreement that indicated that they are supporting one another and are in a committed relationship. Neither could be married to others or have another domestic partner. They would have had to share a residence for at least 6 months and "be jointly responsible to each other for the necessities of life." Benefits will include family and medical leave; life, health and dental insurance; access to library, recreational and athletic facilities; child care services; university apartments; and other assistance.

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IMAGINE 1.8 MILLION INVISIBLE VETERANS
That's how many women have served in our military since 1776. Why are they so hard to see? Wilma Vaught, a retired brigadier general of the Air Force, who now heads Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) says, "They never got to tell their war stories and everybody wrote them off." When she volunteered in 1957, "the list of couldn'ts was longer than the coulds." But all that has now changed. This month, a women's memorial will be dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery and there is a National Women Veterans Recognition Week in November.

.....from the Parade Magazine

Cathy A. Lambert M.S.W., A.C.S.W., C.C.S.W.

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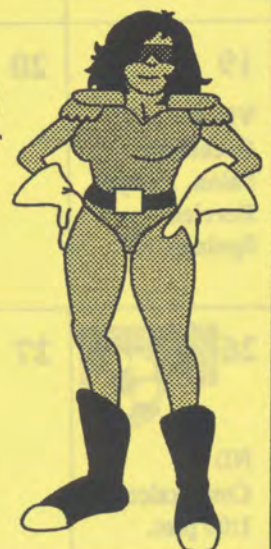
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		 N.D. vs Illinois State 7pm, 7th ↓ ↓	1 St Joseph Valley NOW meeting 7pm S. B. Public Library Main Branch	2	3  N.D. vs St. Johns 7pm	4
5 Soccer ND vs B.C. 1:00 p.m. Volleyball ND vs Connecticut 2 p.m.	6	7  Best Wishes, NEYSA M.	8  Birthday wishes to SUE P.	9	10	11  NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
12	13  Happy Birthday Rev. Martha Carroll	14	15	16	17  N.D. vs N. Carolina 8pm	18
19 Viv's Creativity Salon, 1:00pm Berrien Springs, MI.	20	21	22	23	24  ND vs Seton Hall 7:30 p.m.	25
26  ND vs Connecticut 1:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30	31  ND vs Michigan 7:30 p.m.	